

Former Research & Development Building
(also known as the Former Brown Company Research and Development
Building Site)
Main Street, Berlin, NH



DES Site Number: 200007033

[ONESTOP Master Id.: 50988](#)

Date of update: March 15, 2010

Description: This site is the former research and development facility for the former Brown Paper Company. In latter years, research and development activities were terminated and the first floor of the east wing building was redeveloped for use as an employee training facility. The property is now owned by Tri-County Community Action Programs Inc. (Tri-County CAP).

Potential Environmental Concerns: Potential environmental concerns associated with this property include the ubiquitous presence of lead-based paint (which also contains PCBs) throughout the interior of both wings of the facility. An inferred release of PCBs from former electrical equipment in the second floor chemical storage room and associated tracking of the release into other common areas of the second floor of the east wing building has resulted in the presence of PCB-contaminated concrete flooring in the chemical storage room, second floor hallway, second floor stairway landing, and the second floor lavatory. A release of mercury from a barometer in the east wing building second floor hallway resulted in the presence of mercury contaminated concrete flooring in the second floor hallway and an adjacent laboratory room.

Releases from electrical equipment in the west wing basement have resulted in the presence of PCB-contaminated concrete slab flooring and PCB-contaminated sediment in perimeter drainage troughs in the west wing basement. Some of these sediments have also been found to contain elemental mercury.

Asbestos-containing building materials are located throughout both wings of the facility. PCB-containing floor tiles are located in the “wet lab” area of the first floor of the west wing.

Releases from exterior electrical equipment have resulted in the presence of PCB-contaminated surface soils adjacent to the southern, eastern, and northern exterior walls of the east wing and former one-story connector building.

Previous Work: Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments and several phases of supplemental assessment work were completed on behalf of Northern Forest Heritage Park through a grant of technical services between 2000 and 2009.

Current Work: DES has authorized Sanborn, Head & Associates Inc. (SHA) to conduct a final stage of supplemental assessment work within the east wing and west wing to support preparation of cleanup planning documents. SHA is currently preparing separate remedy implementation plans and bid specifications for: (1) the first and second floors of the east and west wings and the exterior contaminated soils; and (2) the basement of the west wing.

DES anticipates the remedy implementation plans and bid specification documents will be available for public review in April/May 2010. Cleanup activities are expected to start in June 2010.

Copies of all available Brownfields reports for this site can be accessed from the DES ONESTOP database at [ONESTOP Master Id.: 50988](#).

Scheduled Public Events: A public meeting was held at the abutting Northern Forest Heritage Park on April 7, 2010 to present the Remedial Action Plan for public comment. There are no public meetings currently scheduled for this site. However, a public notice will be issued in the Fall of 2010 to inform the community of the remedial actions completed between June and October of 2010.

Cleanup Planning: Cleanup planning documents for this site should be available in April/May 2010. Cleanup of the first and second floors of the east wing and the exterior soils is expected to begin in June 2010. Cleanup of the west wing will need to be postponed pending additional funding.

Section 106 of Historic Preservation Act: DES previously submitted a Project Review Request to the New Hampshire Department of Cultural Resources – Division of Historical Resources (DHR) upon receipt of the remedial action plan in late 2009. DHR issued a letter approving the proposed remediation approach on November 9, 2009. DES also submitted a Project Review Request to DHR for the current supplemental assessment work. DHR issued a determination of “No Potential to Cause Effects” on January 4, 2010.